DEMOCRATIC

GERMAN REPORT

VOL. II NO. 5 FEBRUARY 27th 1953 Price: 15 Pf., 5 c., 3 d

TROOPS MUST LEAVE BERLIN

Free Elections Then Possible

All occupation troops must leave Berlin immediately, thus making it possible to hold free democratic elections throughout the city, the Berlin Committee of the Socialist Unity Party has declared in an important proclamation.

The proclamation, full details of which are given on pages 4 and 5, outlines the steps which could best be taken by the West Berliners themselves to end their dangerous isolation in a heavily-armed "front-line island".

"In all sections of the West Berlin population there are men and women who have proved that... they are ready and able to form a new and independent administration" the proclamation stated.

"The Western occupation powers must be compelled to begin negotiations with the Soviet Union with the aim of withdrawing immediately all military garrisons from Berlin, abolishing the sector boundaries and holding free democratic elections for an all-Berlin administration...

"When this short term programme is put into force all the protective measures taken by the German Democratic Republic as a result of the West Berlin 'front-line policy' will become superfluous and can be removed."

The proclamation, which was heartily greeted by all West Berlin patriots and progressives, gave a warning that if the Bonn Treaty, forming a new West German Wehrmacht, were to be ratified, this would inevitably lead to a deepening of the split through Berlin.

"...such a war-like policy in West Berlin would force the Government of the German Democratic Republic to take further far-reaching protective and security measures in the interests of their population. The 'front-line politicians' will bear the sole responsibility for such steps."

Lots More Eggs

East Germans ate three eggs in 1952 for every two they ate in 1951, figures published in Berlin show.

The figures, which showed vividly the rise in production, and the accompanying rise in the standard of living in the German Democratic Republic, were given in the report on the 1952 Economic Plan, presented by the State Planning Commission.

Overall figures showed that since the Five Year Plan began in 1951 industrial production had increased by 43 percent.

In 1952 wages increased an average of 6 percent, and prices remained stable.

Plenty of other things besides eggs were available in greater quantities. Meat and sausage sales rose 41 percent, and shoe sales 33 percent.

In universities and technical schools over 17,000 more students were able to pursue their studies.

(Full details of Plan Report on page 2.)

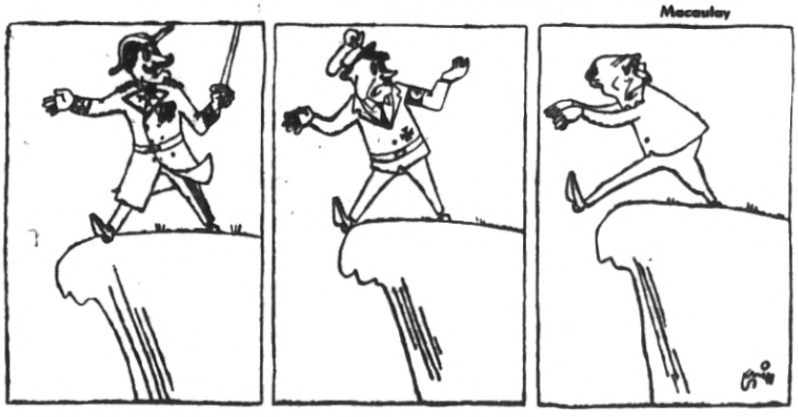
3/4 SAY NO

Almost three quarters of all West Germans do not want to serve in a new army, according to the West German public opinion poll EMNID.

The poll asked a selected sample of the population: "Would you find it right to serve as a soldier, or that your son or your husband was called up?" 72 percent of all those asked gave a straight "no" to the question.

"FORTH WENT THE DAUNTLESS THREE"

Macaulay

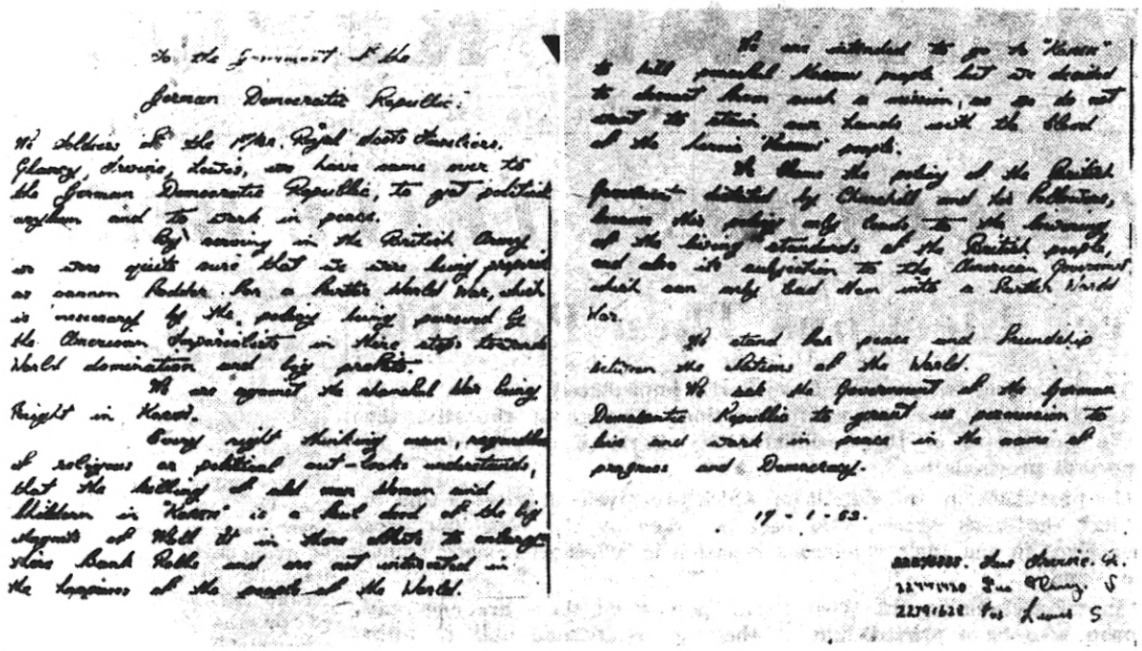


Kaiser Wilhelm: I lead you on to a glorious future!

Adolf Hitler: My people, give me four years time...

Konrad Adenauer: Political developments are reaching a happy climax with gigantic strides!

BRITISH SOLDIERS CHOOSE PEACE



To the Government of the
German Democratic Republic:

We Soldiers of the 1st Bn. Royal Scots Fusiliers, Glancy, Irvine, Lewis, are have come over to the German Democratic Republic, to get political asylum and to work in peace.

By serving in the British Army we were quite sure that we were being prepared as cannon fodder for a Hitler World War, which is necessary by the policy being pursued by the American Imperialists in their step towards World domination and big profit.

We are against the shameful War being fought in Korea.

Every right thinking man, regardless of religious or political anti-Communistic attitude, knows that the killing of old men, women and children in "Korea" is a foul deed of the big Aggressor Wall St in their effort to enlarge their Bank Rolls and are not interested in the happiness of the people of the World.

We are ashamed to go to "Korea" to kill peaceful Korean people but are decided to commit such a crime, as we do not want to stain our hands with the blood of the heroic Korean people.

We know the policy of the United Nations dictated by Churchill and his Politicians, knows this policy only leads to the lowering of the living standards of the British people, and also its subjection to the American Government which can only lead them into a British World War.

We stand for peace and friendship between the Nations of the World.

We ask the government of the German Democratic Republic to grant us permission to live and work in peace in the name of progress and Democracy.

17 - 1 - 53.

A photo-static copy of the letter addressed to the Government of the German Democratic Republic by three members of the Royal Scots Fusiliers, asking for political asylum and the chance to work in peace in East Germany.

The soldiers' names are R. Irvine, 22 276 838, S. Glancy, 22 441 420, and S. Lewis, 22 797 628.

A French soldier, Jean Guerrini of the 46th Battalion of the French Troops in Berlin, also sought asylum in East Germany during January.

European Trade Unions Call for Defeat of Bonn Treaties

Six important European trade union federations have pledged themselves to fight with all methods against the Bonn Treaty, which would re-establish a West German Wehrmacht and greatly increase the danger of war.

In a joint appeal the trade unions called on all European workers to work together for a peace treaty with Germany.

The appeal was signed by the Free German Trade Union Federation, the CGT for France, the CGIL for Italy, the EVC for Holland, the FLA for Luxembourg, and the United Belgian Miners Union.

Poles and Germans Fight Flood Menace

Poles and Germans, working together day and night, have broken up a huge mass of floating ice which had gathered on the lower reaches of the river Oder, and had threatened the flooding of large stretches of East Germany.

Polish Army pioneers and German People's Policemen cooperated in blowing gaps in the ice dam, which was 30 miles long and 15 feet thick in parts.

Malan Bans GERMAN REPORT

The South African Government has banned all issues of GERMAN REPORT from entering South Africa, the Government Gazette announced on February 6th.

Democratic
GERMAN REPORT

Subscription rates: 4 marks, 8/- sterling $ 1.25 per annum or pro rata, postage paid.

Subscriptions may be paid at the following addresses:

Democratic Germany: At all post offices.

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"Association of Nazi Victims" Has Completed its Task

The "Association of Nazi Victims" which cared for and helped all those who had been persecuted and imprisoned by nazi tyranny has fulfilled its task in the German Democratic Republic, and wound up its affairs, it was announced on February 22nd.

Developments in the German Democratic Republic guarantee full rights to all those who were persecuted by Hitler, and a special organisation is no longer needed, the announcement said.

In West Germany, where the fight against neo-fascism is in full swing, and where Hitler's victims are being thrown into prison once again, the "Association of Nazi Victims" will continue its activities.

In some parts of West Germany the association can only carry on semi-legal work, since various provincial governments have attempted to impose a ban on all its activities.

Youth Jailed

The district court at Amberg in the American Zone has sent two young men to prison for four months for "Insulting Chancellor Adenauer". The men, Artur Preischl and Georg Steger, had circulated leaflets stating that Adenauer's policy meant war.

NEW FRAME-UP PLANNED 20 YEARS AFTER REICHSTAG FIRE

Why the Reichstag Burned

The original Reichstag Fire occurred on February 27th 1933, just four weeks after Adolf Hitler had been named Chancellor. The nazis were by no means firmly in the saddle yet, and there were signs that despite their brutal terrorist tactics they might suffer a bad defeat at the general election due on March 5th.

Then, on the evening of February 27th the Reichstag, the big parliament building in Berlin, suddenly went up in flames.

Hermann Goering, Prussian Minister of the Interior, immediately announced that the fire was the work of Communists, who wished to give the signal for an armed rising.

Hitler's storm troops were unleashed, Communists, Socialists and progressives of all sorts were rounded up, beaten and murdered, and the nazis, with the full support of Krupp and the other big industrialists, were set marching down the road to war and destruction.

The fire in the Reichstag had been a frame-up, arranged as an excuse for using all brutality against the opponents of nazism. The frame-up was fully exposed at the Reichstag Fire Trial, held in Leipzig in autumn 1933.

Here Georgi Dimitroff, Bulgarian Communist leader, Taneff and Popoff, Bulgarian Communists, a German and a half-witted Dutchman were charged with laying the fire. Dimitroff, with great courage and political sense, converted the trial into a trial of the nazis, the men really responsible, and turned the prisoner's dock into a forum from which he warned the world of the dangers of fascism and war.

As the result of Dimitroff's stand, and an immense world protest movement, all the accused, with the exception of the Dutchman, were acquitted.

The West German authorities are planning a large-scale frame-up as an excuse for banning the Communist Party and other progressive and peace groups, according to reliable reports from Bonn.

During the first three weeks in February West German police, acting on the instructions of Robert Lehr, Minister of the Interior, have made a series of coordinated raids on Communist Party offices in all parts of West Germany, in the hope of discovering "incriminating" material.

Sources close to the Ministry of the Interior disclosed this week that agents of the American F. B. I. had been in contact with Minister Lehr, and had offered to provide him with the sort of material he needed.

Minister Lehr has been attempting to ban the Communist Party since November 22nd 1951, when he filed an application with the West German Constitutional Court at Karlsruhe, asking for the party to be prohibited as "treasonable".

Since this date Minister Lehr has been forced to ask almost monthly for postponements "in order to assemble more evidence".

Pending the full-blown prohibition of the Communist Party, the authorities have been content with breaking up meetings, banning newspapers, and hindering activities in all ways possible.

A glaring example of the way in which the authorities acted against the Communists and all patriots who dared speak up for peace and unity was given in Munich on February 21st.

Here, while Communist Party Chairman Max Reimann was addressing a crowd of some 10,000, at a properly licenced meeting, a force of 500 police wearing steel helmets and carrying rifles burst into the hall, and attempted to drag Reimann from the platform. The crowd fought back, and it took the police two hours, with the frequent use of high-power hoses, to disperse them.

The reason for the provocation became plain when the Bavarian Ministry of the Interior declared next day "This shows that the Communists intend to oppose the government by force. We shall draw the necessary conclusions."

THE LESSONS OF THE FIRE

By Georgi Dimitroff

(In an interview with "Intransigeant", Paris, February 1934)

The Reichstag Fire was organized by the nazis, as the prologue to the plans laid by Goering and his friends. For a long time Goering had been planning the destruction of the German workers organisations, the Communist Party of Germany, and all anti-fascist forces.

The fire was also intended to deceive people abroad. Under the cloak of saving European civilisation from Bolshevism, the nazis would be able to carry out the rearmament which they, as militarists, intended.

The fire was also a well prepared excuse for all the terrorist measures which the nazis intended to take against everything which was still liberal in Germany, against every utterance of an independent spirit, even in the fields of science, art and literature . . .

I believe the nazi leaders to be an unscrupulous, brutal and militaristic group, representative of the most extreme, most aggressive and most chauvinistic section of the German bourgeoisie and the German Junkers.

I do not regard them as particularly clever or particularly far-sighted, however. They are only the executive arm, not the real rulers of the country.

Behind them stand the real bosses: the arms kings, the heavy industrialist, the Krupps and the Thyssens. But these nazis will obey their master's voice to the utmost. They do not hesitate at shedding blood in their own country, and they will not hesitate at waging war with the surrounding world.

PROGRAMME FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF BERLIN PROBLEM

The people of West Berlin must unite in order to overthrow the present administration and force the withdrawal of all occupation troops and the holding of free democratic elections in the whole of Berlin, both east and west, the Socialist Unity Party announced in a proclamation issued on February 5th.

Here are the main points of the proclamation:

The imperialist occupants, in particular the US imperialists, are utilising their presence in West Berlin for one reason alone: in order to convert West Berlin into a bridgehead and a centre of provocation for starting a new war.

The very existence of the West Berlin population will be menaced by the ratification of the Bonn war treaties.

The inclusion, by the western powers, of West Berlin in the aggressive military system of imperialist war pacts means that the imperialist occupation powers will have finally broken the Four Power agreements on Berlin. This can only result in a further isolation, impoverishment and placing in peril of the West Berlin population.

The people of West Berlin want to live, however. They want to see the end of the American bridgehead.

Only a peaceful solution of the Berlin question can save the lives and the futures of the people of West Berlin. The people of West Berlin have the very greatest interest in an understanding, an understanding which will normalise the situation in West Berlin and help towards a peaceful solution of the German question.

For the people of West Berlin the occupation regime is no longer bearable. The western occupation powers must therefore be forced, by the united will of the population, to agree with the Soviet Union on the withdrawal of all military garrisons from Berlin, the ending of the sector boundaries, the prohibition of the terrorist organisations and the holding of free, democratic elections to an all-Berlin council.

The imperialist occupation powers would not be able to continue their criminal policy with regard to West Berlin if they did not have the help of the Reuter administration. The right-wing leaders of the Social Democrats and the trade unions in West Berlin, in coalition with the most reactionary leaders of the Christian Democratic Union and the Free Democratic Party, are helping to include West Berlin in the American system of war pacts.

The West Berlin party leaders, united in the Reuter administration, know well the great dangers inherent in the ratification of the Bonn Treaty and the agreement on a European Army. They nevertheless support these treaties, which will deepen the partitioning of Germany, hinder the reunification of the German capital, and make it impossible to reach a peaceful solution of the German problem on the basis of unity, independence and democracy.

All West Berliners must realise quite clearly that such a war-like policy in West Berlin would force the Government of the German Democratic Republic and the Administration of Greater Berlin (Democratic Sector, ed.) to take further far-reaching protective and security measures in the interests of their population. The "front-line politicians" will bear the sole responsibility for such steps.

The "front-line policy" of the Reuter administration has meant that the West Berlin population have been deprived of their most elementary rights and liberties. There is liberty in West Berlin only for the worst exploiters, for the most unscrupulous speculators, for war-mongers, for American espionage agents, and terrorists. Liberty of the press only applies to those newspapers and magazines financed with American dollars which all serve war preparations.

All supporters of peace, all real German patriots, and all those who support the peaceful reunification of Berlin and Germany are exposed to terroristic persecution.

The outer facade of prosperity cannot conceal the vicious circle of price increases, tax increases, higher rents, and rising rates in gas, water and electricity.

The West Berlin population can only escape from this road to ruin and catastrophe by overthrowing the Reuter administration.

A large part of the West Berlin population has realized that the "front-line policy" will not lead to a reunification of Berlin as the capital of Germany, but that it increases the danger of war and civil war.

400,000 West Berliners who had realized this fact gave their signatures in the plebicite against remilitarization and in favor of a peace treaty with Germany. The West Berlin workers refuse to take part in war production in West Berlin factories and they demand higher wages and the protection of their democratic rights.

The people need an independant and democratic administration which sets itself the task of normalising life in West Berlin and doing everything possible in order to produce a peaceful understanding between East and West.

In all sections of the West Berlin population there are men and women who have proved that, despite their differing political opinions, they are ready to protect the national and social demands and interests of the West Berlin population. These men and women are ready and able to form a new and independent administration.

Now it is necessary to gather together all decent, honest and peaceable West Berliners in a patriotic movement which will create conditions of law and order in West Berlin guaranteeing work and the prospect of a happy future for everybody.

The Western occupation powers must be compelled to begin negotiations with the Soviet Union, with the aim of withdrawing immediately all military garrisons from Berlin, abolishing the sector boundaries and holding free democratic elections for an all-Berlin administration.

The Western occupation powers must be required to guarantee the West Berlin population all democratic rights and liberties. The activities of the espionage bureaus and the sabotage centres in West Berlin must be prohibited.

There can be no doubt that this would lead to an immediate relaxation of tension in Berlin, would considerably reduce the danger of war and would give the people of West Berlin a favourable chance to build a better life.

The Berlin District Committee of the Socialist Unity Party calls upon all workers, employees, intellectual workers, craftsmen, tradesmen and middle-class patriots to fight for the creation of political and economic conditions in West Berlin which would end national oppression and the exploitation of the population. The Reuter administration must be overthrown by the patriotic movement of the West Berlin population and replaced by a democratic and independent West Berlin administration.

The people of West Berlin do not stand alone in this fight. At their side are the people of the Democratic Sector of Berlin, the people of the Democratic German Republic, the patriotic forces in West Germany, and the great camp of peace led by the strong invincible Soviet Union.

The road to a united and prosperous capital of a happy, united Germany stretches before us. Let us go forward together under the banner of peace held aloft by the patriotic movement.

BERLIN, FEBRUARY 5TH 1953

SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY OF GERMANY, DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF GREATER BERLIN

Short-term Programme for proposed West Berlin Democratic Administration:

1. Insist that the Western Powers immediately negotiate with the Soviet Union on the peaceful solution of the Berlin question.

2. Immediate negotiations aimed at ending West Berlin's isolation and leading to a normalization of relations with the German Democratic Republic and the Democratic Sector of Berlin.

3. Negotiations with all political, trade union and cultural organisations to reach an understanding on joint action by the entire population of Berlin to attain an all-German understanding, a peace treaty and the holding of all-German free elections.

4. Normalisation of West Berlin's economic life through economic relations with the German Democratic Republic, the Soviet Union, the People's Democracies and the Chinese People's Republic. This would provide the West Berlin population with work and a rising standard of living.

5. Immediate agreement on cooperation between all municipal and other public services, such as health services, transport, post, and power.

6. Immediate cancellation of all laws and decrees leading to the isolation of West Berlin. This applies in particular to all laws passed by the Reuter administration linking West Berlin with West German legislation and West German war-like agreements.

7. Immediate disolution of all terror and espionage organisations established by the American war-provocateurs with the aim of interferring with the work of construction in the German Democratic Republic.

When this short-term programme is put into force all the protective measures taken by the German Democratic Republic as a result of the West Berlin "frontline policy" will become superfluous and can be removed.

DEMOCRACY, WORK FOR ALL, BETTER EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

The proclamation also detailed proposals for the restoration of democratic rights and liberties in West Berlin. Here are the main points:

1. Cancellation of all decrees and laws of the Reuter administration and the Western occupation powers imposing limitations upon the freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, the right to strike, religious freedom and the inviolabilitiy of the person.

2. Banning of all militaristic and fascist organisations (Federation of German Youth, Stahlhelm, etc.) and of all forms of war propaganda, racial hatred, militaristic films etc.

3. The law for the nationalisation of the property of war criminals and monopolists, passed by the unified Berlin City Council before it was split in 1948 should be put into force, thus guaranteeing the democratic development and the peaceful construction work of West Berlin.

Measures which should be taken immediately to overcome poverty and improve the life of the population should include the following:

1. Increase of all wages and pensions etc. in accordance with the rise in prices.

2. Reestablishment of a united and really social system of social insurance.

3. Immediate cancellation of all tax increases etc. which had been imposed as a result of the West Berlin "front-line policy".

4. A large-scale construction programme for apartment houses in close cooperation with the Democratic Sector of Berlin.

Proposed Measures for the Improvement of Education and Cultural Work included:

1. Immediate reestablishment of the democratic school regulation passed by the United City Assembly in 1947, particularly with regard to the provision of free school books etc.

2. Adequate scholarships for University students to relieve them from the position of working their way through college as carpet-beaters or taxi-girls.

3. Prohibition of all such abortions of "American culture" such as taxi-girls, all-in wrestling, pornographic exhibitions, gangster films, etc.

1952 PLAN BROUGHT BIGGER WAGES

Main Points of Economic Report

Industrial production in East Germany rose almost one-sixth during 1952, and wages went up 6 percent in the same period, while prices remained stable, it was officially announced in Berlin on February 15th.

The report on the 1952 Economic Plan, presented by the State Planning Commission, showed great steps forward in all fields. The plan for the year was overfulfilled by 3 percent, and industrial production rose by 16 percent. Since the Five Year Plan began in 1951 industrial production has risen by 43 percent.

Here are the main points of the report in detail:

Industrial Production Plan

The plan was overfulfilled in many important branches such as electric power, caustic soda, lead ore, pig steel, foundry equipment, furniture and shoes.

In other branches, however, production lagged behind the plan, particularly in hard coal, certain types of heavy machinery, and consumption goods for the population.

Agricultural Production Plan

By the end of December 1952 peasants had come together voluntarily to form 1815 production cooperatives covering an area of 160,000 hectares. The number of pigs held increased 28 percent compared to 1951, and reached a figure 59 percent above that of 1938. A 10 percent increase in the number of cows was accompanied by a 5 percent increase in milk production per cow, thanks to better care and feeding.

50 new tractor stations were erected in 1952, and a total of 6000 more tractors were made available to the farmers.

On the nationally owned farms the spring sowing was 80 percent mechanised.

Employed persons, Productivity and Wages

There was a 5 percent increase in the total of persons employed in industry, and an increase of 13 percent in productivity compared to 1951.

The standard of living of the whole population was increased by wage increases averaging 6 percent, improvements in free cultural and health services, and the payment of excellent premiums to Activists and First-class Workers.

The sum of over 80,000,000 marks annually will be saved in industry as the result of 100,000 different improvements suggestions made by workers.

Consumer Goods

Retail trade did 1000 million marks worth more business than foreseen in the plan. Total sales were up over one quarter, and here are the percentage rises for certain goods:

Meat and sausage	41 %
Butter, marg, lard	12 %
Milk	7 %
Eggs	51 %
Underclothes	12 %
Stockings and socks	8 %
Shoes	33 %

Despite these increases the Plan Commission criticised the lack of variety in the goods on sale, and the fact that seasonal needs were not properly met.

Culture and Health

Over 8000 more students were admitted to universities in 1952 than in the previous year. Technical schools were giving instruction to 48,571 pupils, 9447 more than in 1951.

1580 more libraries were opened during the year, and 84 club houses for workers and peasants.

37 country clinics and 342 district nursing stations were opened during the year to improve health Facilities in country districts.

Foreign Trade

Over three quarters of the foreign trade of the German Democratic Republic is conducted with the countries of the democratic world market (Soviet Union and People's Democracies). Total foreign trade was one-fifth up on the 1951 figure.

"Cold and Ruthless" Marshal Released

Field Marshal Georg von Kuechler was released on February 18th by the U. S. authorities from Landsberg prison where he was serving a sentence of twenty years imprisonment.

The U. S. Court which had sentenced him for war crimes on October 27th 1948 had described him as "cold and ruthless" and found no extenuating circumstances in his crimes.

The court which sentenced him was composed of Judge John C. Young, former Chief Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court, Judge Winfield B. Hale of Tennessee and Judge Justin W. Harding of Ohio.

Field Marshal Kuechler, who had commanded the nazi armies on the northern sector of the Soviet front was found guilty of the following crimes, among others:

Executing captured commissars.

Murdering 230 sick women in a Soviet hospital which fell into his hands.

Approving the murder of prisoners of war

Cooperating in the enslavement and deportation of hundreds of thousands of civilians

Giving his approval to the persecution of Jews.

Particular evidence of the last charge was that he had transmitted the notorious "Reichenau order" which laid down that German soldiers must inflict "hard but just punishment on the Jewish submen".

A further release during the week was the nazi general Walter Kuenze, who had been sentenced to life imprisonment by a U. S. court on February 19th 1948 for assorted acts of murder, maltreatment and terrorism during the nazi campaign in the Balkans.

(From "Krokodil", Moscow)

WHAT YEAR IS IT?

The picture in the next column is not a bad joke. It is the reproduction of the cover of a book on sale in most West German bookshops. It is an almost exact reproduction of the cover of Adolf Hitler's infamous "Mein Kampf", but this time the title has been changed into "Mein Frieden" (My Peace).

It is published by the "Pegasus" Verlag, at Detmold in the British Zone of Germany. The author is a certain Edwin E. Moeller, and the publisher's blurb about the book states:

"This book is fiction, but you should take it seriously; it could very easily be true. There is no real proof of the fact that Hitler really met death on April 30th 1945. There are many proofs that Hitler still lives, even if he only lives on in his ideas, in the 'National Socialist philosophy'."

Now look at this advertisement from a recent number of the respectable West German newspaper "Frankfurter Allgemeine". It offers for sale a copy of the first edition of the original "Mein Kampf".

To complete the picture, the Albrecht Duerer Verlag, a publishing house in Brunswick, British Zone, announced this month that a new edition of Hitler's "Mein Kampf" was in active preparation.

"Selling" West Germany is Expensive

The West German Government will pay a New York public relations firm over a quarter of a million dollars during 1953 to "sell" the American people on the re-nazification and remilitarisation which is going on there.

The firm which is getting all this money is the "Roy Bernard Co.", 14 East 62 Street, New York. What do they get it for? The West German newsmagazine "Spiegel" of February 18th provided some of the answers:

"Inspiring and encouraging pro-German (pro-West-German, ed.) articles and picture stories. In 1952 there were about 100 of these in papers ranging from the 'New York Times' to the 'Texas Times'.

"Stopping or correcting anti-German reports (anti-West-German, ed.) When Wilhelm Schepmann, former Chief of Staff of the Storm Troopers, was elected in a local West German election in November 1952, the firm 'Roy Bernard' was able to stop a press campaign against Germany."

(So the next time American readers find a slushy piece about the good-hearted nazi generals being released from war criminal jail, they will know who is paying for it.)

Life Jail for Spies

Three men who had carried out espionage and sabotage in the German Democratic Republic in the pay of the American Intelligence Service were sent to prison for life by the Dresden County Court on February 14th.

Three other accused were sent to prison for fifteen years.

Hurrah For Hitler and Goering!

The West German Transport Ministry has issued a pamphlet on preparations for West German civil aviation which describes Hitler and Goering as the great and generous patrons of German airlines in the early thirties. "Their work should be taken as a pattern for the way in which German air lines may become of world importance" the pamphlet stated.

The West German Transport Minister, Christoph Seebohm, attained notoriety on December 4th 1951 when he publicly gave recognition to the nazi swastika symbol by stating in a speech:

"I bow my head in respect before all symbols under which Germans have fought and died for their fatherland."

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

A few days ago I was involved in a slight car accident in East Berlin. It was very slight indeed — nobody was even shaken, and only the wings of the two cars involved were bent — but it was noteworthy for me because of the attitude of the traffic police.

The accident squad of the Berlin People's Police arrived promptly on the scene and did all the usual things, noting down numbers, inspecting licences and so on. What was remarkable was the way in which they did it, efficiently and in a friendly manner, treating everybody involved as if they were human beings.

For some readers this may not seem worth mentioning, but for anyone who ever had anything to do with the old Prussian police it was very remarkable indeed.

It could indeed be marked down as one of the minor triumphs of the German Democratic Republic that in the short space of less than eight years a police force has been trained which has not a trace of the hectoring, overbearing, sergeant-majorish character that the police have always previously had in Germany.

This is not to say, of course, that the People's Police are soft. They have shown often enough that they can be extremely efficient against the enemies of the new peaceful state which is being constructed here.

Comma Trouble

On the other side of the world, in Shanghai, China, a veteran American journalist, John W. Powell, puts out a fine monthly magazine called "China Monthly Review".

The "Review" is doing the same sort of job in People's China which GERMAN REPORT is trying to do in Democratic Germany: to provide the English-speaking world with an honest picture of what is going on.

In the editorial "Report to Readers" in the March 1953 issue there is a paragraph which appealed to me so much I must reprint it:

"As is the case with most newspapermen, we scarcely have nodding acquaintance with anything more complicated than a comma, so are often hard pressed when correspondents and readers slip us sharp questions on the finer points of grammar. Not infrequently they get us in a corner by sending in a long list of grammatical rules and pointing out that each was violated once or more in the last issue. (The editor's editorials usually take the worst beating.)"

This was a cry from the heart in which I join with full force. If I was putting out this paper in Britain, for instance, I could rely on the printer to see to it that the words were split in the right place, and that they were all spelt right. Here I am out on my own, for my printers know no English at all.

But to get back to "China Monthly Review". I should like to recommend the magazine most heartily and genuinely to anyone who wants to learn the truth about one quarter of the world's population. A subscription costs $ 3.00 or 16/- sterling, and subscriptions can be placed through almost all the newsagents named on page 2 of this issue.

Who Said This?

"The Federal German Government declares that it is firmly determined to maintain the demilitarisation of the Federal territory, and to prevent with all means at its power the creation of any sort of armed forces."

Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, November 24th 1949

Aggression

GERMAN REPORT has charged frequently that certain ruling circles in the United States are working openly toward aggressive war against the German Democratic Republic in particular and the People's Democracies and the Soviet Union in general.

One or two readers have challenged me on this point. "Don't the threats come from both sides?" they ask.

If I had the time and the paper I could fill volumes with the threatening deeds and articles, and whole atlases with the maps printed in "respectable" U. S. papers showing "the ring of A-bomb bases round Russia" and the like.

For today I will content myself with one very frank quotation: "To adopt the policy of liberation (of East Germany etc.) will mean ... to work toward it by all-sided political warfare and by auxiliary military or paramilitary actions where these are or become necessary; and to prepare adequately for whatever further military steps may be required in the future.

"We are opposed (to Communism) even without and even against all the rest of the world, even if alone".

James Burnham, "New York Herald Tribune" February 14th 1953.

One great comfort of course is that the people of the world are increasingly opposed to this insanity, including a growing number of Americans themselves. If Mr Burnham goes on his "crusade" all by himself he will not do very much damage.

If any reader can provide me with a similarly bloodthirsty and aggressive quotation from any responsible politician or newspaper in the camp of peace, I will gladly eat this issue uncooked.

Quisling Heroine

What are the theatres in West Berlin playing? Latest premiere in the West Berlin City Opera was "Leonore 40/45", which has as its hero a nazi occupation soldier in Paris during the second world war, and as its heroine his French girl friend.

So collaborators and quislings are the new heroines of West German opera, while music-loving poetically inclined nazi soldiers are its heroes.

As far as I could see, not a single West Berlin theatre critic even remarked on the fact that the theme was possibly tactless; which gives some idea of the mental atmosphere of West Berlin.

Tail Piece

"It's just a costume party, officer"
(From "Deutsche Woche", West Germany)

Edited and published fortnightly by John Peet, Democratic German Report, Friedrichstrasse 167/III Berlin W 8, Telephone: 22 62 68. Printed in Germany by (36). Veröffentlicht unter der Lizenz-Nr. 752